



*Seattle Department of Transportation*

**Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor**

Grace Crunican, Director

**August 22, 2005**

**Subject: Planned New Parking Pay Stations in Pike/Pine**

**Dear Pike/Pine business owners, residents and property owners:**

In late 2004, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) converted traditional meters to parking pay stations in the Pike/Pine neighborhood. On-street parking is often packed, and paid parking can encourage area employees to more appropriately park in off-street lots, thereby opening up spaces in the business district for customers and visitors. In Seattle neighborhoods, SDOT has found that paid parking is an effective tool to support healthy business districts where there are strong competing on-street parking demands among customers, residents and area employees.

Last October, SDOT proposed installing new paid parking in areas of Pike/Pine that had time-limit signs or were unrestricted. **SDOT has scaled back the previously proposed areas for expansion after careful review of on-street parking conditions, area land uses, and community comments about the difficulties of changing from free to paid parking.**

New Paid Parking Areas

In October 2005, SDOT will install pay stations on the following streets (please see the attached map):

- **East Pine Street from Broadway Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.** There is a mix of 1-, 3- and 4-hour time-limit signs along this street. Average occupancy is very high, and vehicle turnover can be improved with paid parking. East of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on-street parking occupancy is lower, so paid parking is not yet warranted.
- **East Pike Street from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.** These blocks are quite full with almost one-third of vehicles exceeding the posted time-limits. In comparison, less than 10% of vehicles parked at existing metered spaces in the neighborhood stayed past the posted time-limits. SDOT will continue to monitor parking between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to determine if and when additional parking management measures are needed to ensure adequate parking turnover for customers.
- **East Union Street from Harvard Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the north and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the south.** The 1- and 2-hour signs and unrestricted spaces will be converted to pay stations. These spaces are highly utilized, experience poor turnover, and over half of all vehicles stay past the posted time-limits. Because of lower utilization rates on the south side of East Union Street from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SDOT will install 2-hour time-limit signs and monitor conditions.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue from East Pine Street to East Pike Street.** Between East Pine Street and East Pike Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is unrestricted and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue has 1-hour time limits. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is very highly utilized, vehicles park for a long time and there is poor turnover of the existing spaces. Throughout the neighborhood, 1-hour time limits are overstayed by more than one third of parkers.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue from East Pike Street to East Union Street.** At this time, the unrestricted spaces between East Pike Street and East Union Street will not be modified. Leaving



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unrestricted parking on some side streets is consistent with the parking designation pattern in the western part of Pike/Pine, and will allow area residents the ability to adjust to on-street parking changes. These streets will continue to be monitored as retail demand for parking increases.

- **12<sup>th</sup> Avenue from East Union Street to East Pike Street.** Paid parking will be installed in late 2006 at the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> and Madison developments. Blockfaces on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue north of East Pike Street will be reassessed at that time to determine the potential effectiveness of paid parking given increased demand from new neighborhood commercial uses.

SDOT recognizes that the change from free to paid parking can be a challenging transition. In Seattle's dense neighborhood business districts, paid parking ensures that spaces are available for the short periods of time that visitors need to buy groceries, go out to lunch, or run other errands. Parking enforcement officers can more easily enforce pay stations compared to 1- and 2-hour signs because they do not need to make the second extra trip to check vehicle compliance with the time limit.

#### Timeline for Installation

- The new installations will start the first week of October 2005. Large blue street signs will be installed two weeks in advance to let area parkers prepare for the change.
- All parking spaces will have 2-hour or 30-minute time limits and operate between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Bus stops and layover zones, peak period restrictions and other spaces will not change. Some load zones may be moved closer to intersections.
- "Meter greeters" in red hats and vests will be on-hand to help pay station users. If problems with the pay stations occur, please call SDOT at 206-684-ROAD.
- Business owners or managers interested in free, City-installed on-street bicycle racks should contact the SDOT Bicycle Program at 206-684-7583 or email [pauh.wang@seattle.gov](mailto:pauh.wang@seattle.gov).

#### Community Outreach Report

With the original, larger proposal made in September 2004, SDOT sent a flyer to every occupant within the Pike/Pine neighborhood and attended a specially held Pike/Pine Urban Neighborhood Council (P/PUNC) meeting in November 2004.

SDOT received a large volume of comments generated by meeting participants, door-to-door outreach, email and phone contact with SDOT staff, and through letters and signed petitions circulated by some community members opposed to the new paid parking. Most of those comments were in opposition to new paid parking east of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and north of East Pine Street, and to the loss of free and unrestricted parking used by area residents.

SDOT generally heard positive and neutral comments regarding proposed new pay stations in the commercial areas along the three main arterials of East Pine, East Pike and East Union Streets.

#### For more information

Please contact Meghan Shepard, the Seattle Department of Transportation project manager, at 206-684-4208 or [meghan.shepard@seattle.gov](mailto:meghan.shepard@seattle.gov). You can also find more information on-line at [www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation.htm).

Sincerely,

Katherine Casseday, P.E.  
Director of Traffic Management and City Traffic Engineer